



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

November 9, 2012

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The Honorable Martin O'Malley, Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Funk & Bolton's Efforts to Mislead Maryland Counties

Dear Governor O'Malley:

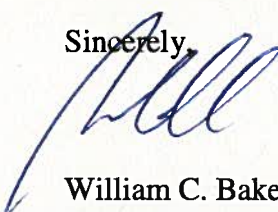
We want to inform you of an effort underway to halt the implementation of the Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint (TMDL and State WIPs). In our view, it is the most serious attack on clean water that we have seen in Maryland, and it threatens to undo the very progress that your administration has worked tirelessly to put in place.


Dorchester County has enlisted the services of the Baltimore based Funk & Bolton law firm to go county-by-county throughout the rural parts of the state, asking the counties to join a "TMDL Coalition" to collectively challenge the Blueprint. They are preying on the fear that counties have over how to pay for clean-up efforts. Additionally, they are trying to blame upstream sources solely for Maryland's water quality problems and encouraging counties to stand down on protecting local water until the upstream sources are controlled. Their initial solicitation is fraught with inaccuracies, and we have prepared the attached fact sheet that highlights the glaring misinformation that Funk & Bolton is spreading on behalf of Dorchester County and other members of the so-called TMDL Coalition.

Because you have been such a strong leader on Bay clean-up, we feel that you need to immediately engage to prevent this attack from gaining additional momentum and to reverse the course of those counties that have signed onto this misguided approach. We believe the state needs an aggressive, targeted response to counter this effort by some counties to ignore their legal obligations under the Clean Water Act and Maryland law.

We will continue our advocacy around this attack on the Blueprint and are confident that, if your administration quickly and aggressively engages, we can continue on our path to finish the job of cleaning up the Bay and our rivers and streams.

Sincerely,


William C. Baker
President


Alison Prost, Esq.
Maryland Executive Director

Enclosure